Our fourfooted friends

A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston Spring 1998

Rabies Bulletin

Summertime and the Livin' is Animal Friendly!

That Doggone Walk

Annual Report

First Aid for Your Pet: Are You Prepared?

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On the Cover

Brian Meagher of Webster, MA shares a moment with mom Kathleen and "Leia" to celebrate Mother's Day.

Our fourfooted friends

Volume 95, No. 5 Spring 1998

Publisher of
our fourfooted friends

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Dedham, MA 02026-4005
(781) 326-0729

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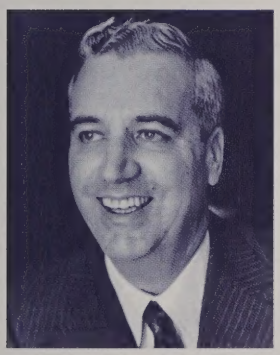
A Message from the President

The Trapping Issue Returns



Arthur G. Slade
President

It is sad and disappointing, but not surprising, that those in our society intent on the use of inhumane traps are interested in overturning the 1996 Referendum which outlawed the use of steel jaw leghold traps in Massachusetts. A great deal of emotion and tension has been generated about this issue and it will no doubt continue as the issue rises again to repeal what was passed by the Referendum vote. We will keep you advised of developments on this concern through this publication or by special alerts if necessary.

It is important to avoid clouding the issue and keep in mind that the focal point is the fact that these traps are a cruel device which inflict pain and suffering on animals to a degree that such suffering is a violation of anti-cruelty laws. It is thus the cruelty and suffering which makes the use of such traps totally unacceptable. I should point out that it is not just our opinion and that of other humane groups, but the question was put on the ballot in 1996 and an overwhelming 1,422,006 individual voters expressed the same view when Question One passed with a huge majority. Our Legislators would do well to keep this in mind.

Any trap to be classified as being humane and suitable for use in trapping animals must capture an animal alive and unharmed or kill the animal quickly and in a humane manner. The hard and simple truth is that steel jaw leghold traps, padded or not, neither capture an animal alive and unharmed nor kill it quickly and humanely.

There has recently been a great deal of controversy over problems relating to wildlife control and management in Massachusetts allegedly because of the loss of leghold traps as a "management tool." This is not a simple issue but one that needs serious and rational discussion to bring about actual resolution. There are other methods and humane traps available and the law provides for means to deal with problem and unusual situations. Our staff work very well on many other matters with wildlife management and control people and we need to approach this concern with the same degree of professionalism and understanding. We stand ready to do this and it makes a lot more sense than trying to repeal a law that has been so soundly and widely approved by the voters of Massachusetts.

A Veterinary

UPDATE

by Bosmat Gal, D.V. M.

Rabies Bulletin

Did you know that rabies affects all warm-blooded animals, including humans? Rabies occurs worldwide (except for selected island countries and states.) In fact, the recorded history of rabies extends to the twentieth century B.C.! Louis Pasteur demonstrated the infectious nature of rabies in the early 1800s. It is a zoonosis—a disease that is transferable from animals to humans. Rabies is a dangerous, fatal disease, but it is preventable.

A viral disease, rabies is caused by a tiny particle containing small pieces of genetic material. Viruses survive in nature by inserting themselves into live cells and using the host's cellular components to replicate and infect other cells. Currently, the virus flourishes in wildlife—especially raccoons, skunks and bats that act as a reservoir. These animals are the primary transmitters of the disease to domestic animals, mostly dogs, cats, horses and cattle, and from them, to humans.

How Rabies Spreads

The virus enters the body through a bite wound inflicted by an infected animal. It then replicates in muscle cells near the wound. Over a period of days or weeks, the virus spreads to the central nervous system through the nerve fibers, leading to abnormal behavior and progressive paralysis. When the virus replicates in the brain, it migrates in nerve fibers to the salivary glands, allowing for shedding of virus in the saliva for further transmission.

"Furious" and "Dumb" Rabies

The virus has two basic manifestations—the furious and dumb rabies. Usually, these two stages are anticipated by a pre-symptom stage, which is characterized by a change in behavior. Wild animals lose their fear of humans and friendly, affectionate pets become apprehensive and unusually alert to changes in their surroundings and may hide due to fear.

Recent History of Rabies in Massachusetts

Rabies was introduced into Massachusetts by raccoons in 1992-1993 and peaked in 1993-1994 when most of the raccoon population started to decrease because they succumbed to the disease. The result was a 1995-1996 reduced rabies rate. It took some time for the population to increase again and presently rabies is back on the rise in the wildlife animal population.

There has been an increase in the number of cats that have tested positive for rabies. This suggests that unvaccinated and free-roaming felines continue to pose a significant risk to the public. Efforts must be taken to emphasize vaccinating cats as well as avoiding contact with free-roaming animals. When rabies in cats and dogs is controlled, the occurrence of disease transmission to humans is dramatically reduced. The vaccination of the dog and cat population provides a barrier that reduces the risk of human exposure to rabies. Routine vaccination (on schedule!) is the only proven way to prevent the disease in dogs and cats as well as other domestic animals. Efforts to control stray dogs, cats and wildlife will help to significantly decrease the potential of disease transmission.

Rabies Clinics

Mayor Thomas Menino, the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the City of Boston Animal Control, in conjunction with the Neighborhood Pet Center, are hosting a series of twelve clinics to provide a convenient opportunity for the public to protect their pets against rabies and license their dogs at the same time. Please stop by!

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Animal Rescue League of Boston Headquarters, 10 Chandler Street (corner of Arlington and Tremont streets) in Boston.

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in South Boston at Engine Company #39 at 272 D Street.

Wednesday, April 15, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Charlestown at Engine Company #32 at 525 Main Street.

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in West Roxbury at Engine Company #55 at 5115 Washington Street.

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Dorchester at Engine Company #20 at 310 Neponset Avenue.

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Readville at Engine Company #49 at 209 Neponset Valley Parkway.

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Roxbury at Engine Company #42 at 1870 Columbus Avenue.

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Dorchester at Engine Company #52 at 975 Blue Hill Avenue.

Wednesday, May 20, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Allston at Engine Company #41 at 460 Cambridge Street.

Wednesday, May 27, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in East Boston at Engine Company #5 at 360 Saratoga Street.

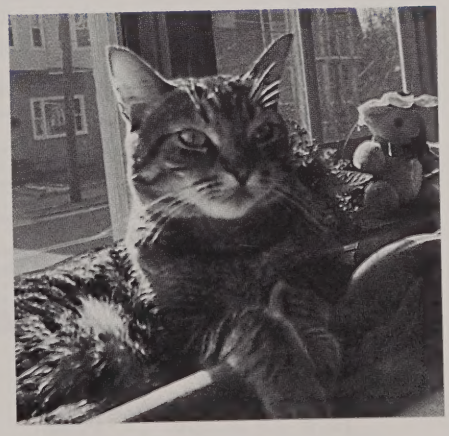
Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Roslindale at Engine Company #53 at 945 Canterbury Street.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Jamaica Plain at Engine Company #28 at 746 Centre Street.

Spring is upon us which means many happy moments spent outdoors. Don't forget it is also time to have your dog tested for heartworm. For the safety of your pet, all dogs and outdoor cats should be on heartworm preventative medicine during this time of year. See your veterinarian for more information.

Rescue of the Quarter

This story is about a cat named Kirby, who ventured far from home. What makes this story different from many others is that he was happily reunited with his owners.



Laura Caruso, shelter manager in Salem, and shelter agent Beth Field received a call one afternoon regarding a stray cat that had been stuck under a porch for at least two days. Laura and Beth went to the house in Lynn, found the cat, and proceeded to remove the slats from the stairs to allow him to escape from where he was trapped. Fortunately there were no injuries to the feline friend. However, after his ordeal, Kirby was understandably hungry and thirsty!

Once back in the Salem office, shelter workers cross-referenced the cat's description with the numerous entries in the lost and found book. Luckily, the cat's appearance and the area in which it was found alerted staff to a potential match. A call was placed to Kirby's owners. When Rachel Suffriti called back, she was so excited and eager to be reunited with her companion that she came to the shelter immediately to take him home.

Kirby was one of the lucky ones. The return rate of lost cats without an I.D. tag to owners is a dismal 3%. The Animal Rescue League of Boston advocates keeping cats indoors. However, it is important to have an identification tag on the collar in the event your cat gets outside. After all, it happened to Kirby. To find out more about obtaining an identification tag for your cat or dog, you can check with your local pet supply store or veterinarian who should have order forms available.

News from

Summertime and the Livin' is Animal Friendly!

Are you ready for the summer? The League's Animal Friends Summer Camp in North Falmouth, Massachusetts, is preparing for its 49th season of instilling respect for animals, nature and the environment. Would you like to join us?

We invite children entering grade 1 through age 13 to come explore, meet friends and learn about animals, nature, ocean ecology, small pet care, farm life and much more. Applications are now being accepted for the summer of 1998.

Session I, from June 29 to July 17, is open to campers from age 9-13. Session II, from July 20 to August 14, is open to campers ages 6-8. Children may be enrolled for either full-day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or half-day (morning or afternoon) programs.

Session I

June 29 to July 17, 1998

(Three-week session)

Registration fee:
$285 (full-day), $190 (half-day)

For each additional child in a family, $235 full-day, $170 half-day

Session II

July 20 to August 14, 1998

(Four-week session)

Registration fee:
$380 (full-day), $255 (half-day)

For each additional child in family, $310 full-day, $215 half-day

Annual Pet Show

Saturday, July 25, 1998

9:00 a.m.
Nye Field, North Falmouth
(Rain date: July 26)

For more information or to register, please contact:

Sonia Beals
Director, Animal Friends Summer Camp
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117
617-426-9170

League Remembers a Gentleman and Valued Employee

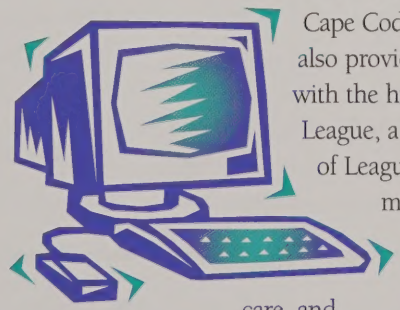
The Animal Rescue League of Boston recently lost a most valued friend and long-time employee. Earl E. Wentzel will be remembered as a gentle soul who dedicated his career and later volunteer efforts to the welfare of animals.

Mr. Wentzel, a resident of Rockland, MA, died February 28 at South Shore Hospital in South Weymouth, MA. His career began at the League in 1946 and progressed through positions in the Livestock, Inspection, and Education departments. Mr. Wentzel retired from the League in 1984 as Vice President. Before retiring, Mr. Wentzel received the prestigious Anna Harris Smith Award, named for the League's founder.

The League sends deepest condolences to his wife Helen, daughters Susan and Kathy, as well as his five grandchildren.

Surf's Up at the Cape Cod Branch

A year and a half after the Animal Rescue League of Boston hit the Internet it is time for a new wave. The Cape Cod branch now has its own Web site thanks to the folks at Cape Cod Computer Wholesalers in Orleans. The site can be reached at **www.c4.net/arl** or can be linked from the League's original site. The League's main Web site has become increasingly popular since its inception in May of 1996. Animal lovers from all over the world have found their way to **www.arl-boston.org**. Through its informative pages on pet care, pet overpopulation, rescue news, etc., the multitude of animal-related inquiries answered via e-mail, and the weekly adoption photos, the League's Web site has reached and affected many people as well as animals. The Cape Cod Branch Web site also provides the public with the history of the League, a description of League services, information on adoption, membership and pet care, and of course updated photos of pets for adoption at the Brewster shelter. We are grateful to Cape Cod Computer Wholesalers for hosting and maintaining the new site; please check it out at



Book Reviews

Career Success with Pets

By Kim Barber

Discover what may await you in choosing a career in the animal field. Barber gives tips on how to start and how to persevere in the exciting world of pet businesses. She also gives several tools to be successful. So take the horse by the reigns and go!!

Starting a Pet Sitting Business

By William S. Foster

Pet sitting as a career—who would have thought? People are catching on to the idea that pet sitting is truly a profitable career. Foster gives his readers the know-how to get a pet sitting business up and running. His methods have worked for him for over nine years. Maybe they can work for you too!

THAT DOGGONE WALK

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 1998

TIME: Blessing and Awards begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Walk

PLACE: Castle Island in South Boston

Woof! Woof! The Animal Rescue League of Boston proudly announces its first annual dog walk, *That Doggone Walk*. Everyone is invited to join the walk on Saturday, May 9, 1998 (rain or shine) at Castle Island in South Boston. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Bring your canine companion if you have one, otherwise come alone or bring a friend. You can walk on behalf of a furry or feathered pet at home or on behalf of all our animal friends. Walkers will solicit donations from friends, family and co-workers prior to the walk. The money raised will go toward the care of the thousands of homeless and injured animals that the League helps each year.

Each registrant will receive a water bottle and a goodie bag filled with lots of treats for their favorite dog or cat. Each dog receives a commemorative bandana. T-shirts will be available for $10 and will also be given to those individuals who raise at least $75 in pledges. Prizes will be awarded to the top fund-raisers (adult and child); prizes include a stay at a Boston bed & breakfast, a dog house, and much more. Families and teams are encouraged to attend and walk together; the group raising the highest amount wins a choice of a pizza party or a coffee and doughnuts party as well as a League coffee mug for everyone.

That Doggone Walk is scheduled for the last day of Be Kind to Animals Week. The Blessing of the Animals and Humane Awards, which have been previously held in Dedham, will take place prior to the walk. The Blessing will be held at 10:30 a.m., followed by the presentation of our annual Humane Awards, and then the walk officially begins. Walkers can start their walk any time thereafter until registration closes at 11:30 a.m. As walkers are returning there will be canine demonstrations as well as tables set up during the day such as: League and pet care information, instant pet ID tags, and humane education for children. The Animal Rescue League of Boston is happy to welcome Radio Disney AM 1260 as the title sponsor of *That Doggone Walk*. **Radio Disney** is a new radio station just for kids. The Radio Disney AM 1260 van will be at the dog walk with lots of music and giveaways to help make the event extra special. Everyone is invited to attend the festivities—you do not need to participate in the walk. It will be a fun-filled day for animal lovers of all ages!

Entries in the 1998 Animal Photography Contest will be displayed at the League's Boston headquarters during National Be Kind To Animals Week, which begins May 3 and at *That Doggone Walk*. Winners in the adult and junior categories will be notified prior to that week and will receive their awards at the dog walk. The winning photographs will then be featured in the summer issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends*.

For more information on the dog walk or to receive a brochure, please call the *That Doggone Walk* Hotline at 617-426-9170, ext.141. You may also request a brochure by filling out the form below and mailing it to the League in the postage paid envelope provided. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Rena Bly at 617-426-9170, ext.126.

Please send me _____ brochures for *That Doggone Walk*.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

☐ I can't join the walk but please accept my pledge.

TRIBUTE TREE 1997

Thinking of a beloved pet always brings a smile to one's face. The Tribute Tree campaign gave people the opportunity to honor the memory of a treasured animal companion now deceased, or pay tribute to their current companion(s). A plastic ornament with the Animal Rescue League of Boston's logo was individually decorated and included the honored pet's name on the back. Thank you to Humane Educator Rebecca Hutchinson for lending her artistic talents for this project. A handmade paper ornament was also crafted by the League's special needs volunteers from the Carter School in Boston and hung on the Tribute Tree at the Boston headquarters during the holiday season. Over $1000 was raised to help the many animals less fortunate than our own special animal friends.

Tributes Were Made By The Following:

Kerri Heller in memory of Georgie (1997)
Kerri Heller in memory of Woody (1997)
Ruth & Gene Mahan in honor of Cooper
Arthur Sawayer in memory of Jessie (9-3-97)
Mrs. Ronald Arntz in memory of Buttons (1997)
Mrs. Ronald Arntz in memory of Zeena (1997)
The Gsells in memory of Frankie (1996)
Jan Barris in memory of Samantha (1993)
Jan Barris in memory of Mandy (1997)
Michele A. DeBiasse in memory of Whalley (1997)
Linda K. Peters in memory of Buddy (March 1996)
Linda K. Peters in memory of Nikki (Sept. 1996)
Carol Thompson in memory of Smokey (1996)
Carol Thompson in memory of Bandit (1996)
Charlotte Woodworth in memory of Cinders (1993)
Charlotte Woodworth in memory of Countess (1988)
Helen A. Davy in memory of Brownie (1978)
Helen A. Davy in memory of Bonnie (1990)
Patricia A. Wasilewski in memory of Susie (1997)
Justine Caton in memory of Sophie (1995)
Amanda Mayo in honor of Persimmon
Peggy Turchette in memory of Abby (1993)
Peggy Turchette in memory of Quigley (1996)
Vito Dinino in memory of Shep (March 1996)
Evelyn Clements in memory of MacDuff (1974-1985)
Francis Mathews in memory of Max (1995)
Dr. Irene Kelley in memory of Buffy (1948)
Dr. Irene Kelley in memory of Lucky (1974)
Dr. Irene Kelley in memory of Skippy (1993)
Dr. Irene Kelley in memory of Teddy (1994)
Dr. Irene Kelley in honor of Bubba
Dr. Irene Kelley in honor of Mitsy
JoAnn H. Bennett in memory of Jelly Bean (1995)
JoAnn H. Bennett in memory of Taffy (1997)
Rita G. Quimby in memory of Sabrina (1997)
Mrs. A.F. Van Ranst in memory of Aster (1996)
Mrs. A.F. Van Ranst in memory of Whiskers (1994)
Frances Stanley in memory of Cindy (8-13-97)
Barbara Murphy in memory of Bobbi (1997)
Joyce Baldyga in memory of Phyllis Ann (1997)
Kaitlyn & Jillian Higgins in honor of Daphne
Angela & Joe Carmichael in honor of Babsie
Angela & Joe Carmichael in honor of Tasha
John & Sandra Koski in memory of Seaweed (1996)
Edna High in memory of Kim (December 1993)
Edna High in honor of Honey
Mr. & Mrs.William Cooper in memory of Spirit (1997)
Paula McNabb in memory of Elsa (1997)
Mrs. Beverly J. Salemme in memory of Babe (2-1-96)
Mrs. Beverly J. Salemme in memory of Heather Marie McSa (9-3-92)
Mrs. Beverly J. Salemme in honor of Elizabeth
Mrs. Beverly J. Salemme in honor of Champ
June Lewey in memory of Tiger (1976)
Mrs. M. Boyd in memory of Spooky (1996)
Matthew Alexander in memory of Mouser (1995)
Mary Finn in honor of Pepsi
Gerry Pudolsky in memory of Sam (1990)
Delmore Pudolsky in memory of Sheba (1990)
John Wilson in honor of Dingle
Edith Jordan in memory of Star (1994)
Olga & Tommy DeSalvo in honor of Tommy
Paula Graham in memory of Honey (1996)
Laurel Wellman in memory of Frisco (1997)
B. Riley in honor of Pickles
Barbara Abu in memory of Holly (1997)
Eleanor Meskell in memory of Chips (1996)
Diana Borselli in honor of Tia
Diana Borselli in memory of Butchie (1987)
James & Martha McGowan in memory of Kitty (1991)
James & Martha McGowan in memory of Panda (1997)
James & Martha McGowan in honor of Ariel
James & Martha McGowan in honor of Tigger
Donna Murphy in memory of Tiffany (1995)
Catherine Galli in honor of General
Catherine Galli in honor of Pamela
Catherine Galli in honor of Barney
Catherine Galli in honor of Dusty
Catherine Galli in honor of Terra
Steven & Angelina Daversa in memory of Max (1997)
Mona Marcucella in memory of Amanda (1986)
Mrs. Horst Ambiel in memory of Myrina (1995)
Donna Lavine in honor of Jazmyn
Donna Lavine in memory of Guthrie (January 1994)
Alison Moore in honor of Casco
Alison Moore in honor of O.J.
Margaret Garrison in memory of Toby (1993)
Helaine Block in memory of Koolie Otis (1997)
Pia Guarnaccia in memory of Duke (1997)
Sally Collier in memory of Mela (1995)
Sally Collier in memory of ZB (1997)
Virginia Dodge in honor of D.C.
Evelyn Cunniff in memory of Molly (7-29-79)
Mrs. Edith Patterson in memory of Pooh (1997)
Betsy Morse in memory of Holly (1997)
Kari Powell in memory of Doogan (1995)
Marlene Salvi in memory of Gunther (1991)
Marlene Salvi in memory of Kitty (1994)
The Block Family in memory of Koolie (1996)
Pearl Perry in memory of Benjamin (1995)
Marie Guide in memory of Challie (9-16-95)
Barbara Ann Jelley in memory of Blackie (8-16-97)
Marie McDonough in memory of Pebbles (1992)
Valerie Robinson in memory of Devil Dog (1997)
Valerie Robinson in memory of Patch (1995)
Ilene Bilenky in memory of Rip (1997)
Ilene Bilenky in honor of Sweet Pea
Ilene Bilenky in honor of Rocky
Carol LaFleur in memory of Velvet (9-18-97)
Carol LaFleur in memory of Laddy (12-5-82)
Diep Shoemaker in honor of Neffie
Pamela Logan in memory of Tiger (1993)
Pamela Logan in memory of Binks (1997)
Leanne & David O'Neil in memory of Billy (1996)
Rita Hennessey in honor of Junior
Rita Hennessey in honor of Kodiak
Rita Hennessey in memory of Sam (1996)
Arthur Dickey in memory of Midnight (1995)
Arthur Dickey in memory of Samantha (1994)
Arthur Dickey in honor of Sylvester
Jean Klein Schmidt in honor of Sasha
Jean Klein Schmidt in memory of Alfie (1988)
Jean Klein Schmidt in memory of Muffet (1988)
Jean Klein Schmidt in memory of Maggie (1995)
Robert Quimby in honor of Lady
Patricia Wasilewski in memory of Susie (1997)
Patricia Wasilewski in honor of Sasha
Susan Bissett in memory of Scrubby (1991)
Susan Bissett in honor of Holly
Susan Bissett in honor of Morgan
Susan Bissett in honor of Molly
Patricia Kelly in memory of Mac (1997)
Patricia Kelly in memory of Jesse (1996)
Patricia Kelly in memory of Buck (1997)
Patricia Kelly in memory of Shadow (1997)
Helen Marengo in memory of Quincy (1997)
Marie Fontaine in memory of Beauregard (1997)
Christine Patterson in honor of Molly
Christine Patterson in honor of Bree
Hayley Curtin in memory of Junie (1993)
Karen Bubar in memory of Lady Katie (1995)
Karen Bubar in memory of Lassie (1983)
John & Jean Fisher in memory of Nicky (1996)
Avis Hamilton in memory of Skip (1997)
Avis Hamilton in memory of Toby (1997)
Joy Speranza in memory of Mittens (1977)
Joy Speranza in memory of Aja (1996)
Joy Speranza in honor of Sophia
Kathy Milan in memory of Miss Kitty (1994)
Karen Gibson in memory of Makenzie (1997)
Beth McCormick in honor of Zeb
Beth McCormick in honor of Abelia
Donna Kuruc in memory of Bubba (1997)
Donna Kuruc in memory of Rudy (1997)
Genevieve Zablocki in memory of Slotki (1984)
Richard Kelly in memory of Patsie (1996)
Constance Moore in memory of Heather (1989)
Constance Moore in memory of Wellesley (1993)
Constance Moore in honor of Lucifer
Constance Moore in honor of Samantha
Constance Moore in honor of Boomer
Constance Moore in memory of Yellow Sam (1991)
Sandra Sheedy to Sheedy Family in honor of Tribble
Sandra Sheedy to David and Kathleen Cerruti in honor of Gizmo
Heidi Gladstone in memory of Greta (3/84 - 7/95)
Heidi Gladstone in memory of Abby (10/85 - 1/96)
Heidi Gladstone in memory of Charlie (1/83 - 5/97)
The Sanders Family in memory of Candy (1987)
The Sanders Family in memory of Frisky (1988)
The MacFeeley Family in memory of Rudy (1992)
The MacFeeley Family in honor of Artex, Toddy & Eric
The MacFeeley Family to Garber Family in honor of Merlyn, Mat, Midnight & Wahoo
Phyllis Coughlin in memory of Pupper (1996)
Phyllis Coughlin in memory of Orf (1997)
Lisa Garrone in honor of Riva
Marylee Boudreau in memory of Eli (1978 - 1995)
Leslie Hopkins in memory of Lady (1997)
Sue Wartman in memory of Maeve (1997)
R. Whitney Dean in memory of Pepper (1989)
R. Whitney Dean in memory of Au Lait (1995)
Sydney in memory of Blue (1997)
Hilary McGregor in honor of Sandy
Hilary McGregor in honor of Mikey
Lori DeBassio in honor of Cricket
Sheila Roth in memory of Nakita (1997)
Sandy Moffet in memory of Miya (1997)
Sandy Moffet in memory of P.R. (1997)
Sandy Moffet in memory of Morris (1996)
Sandy Moffet in memory of Tobey (1997)
Sandy Moffet in memory of Rascal (1997)
Kathleen Mitchell in honor of Blaze
Kathleen Mitchell in honor of Jennifer
Kathleen Mitchell in honor of John
James M. Hutchinson in memory of Mr. Kitty (1996)
James M. Hutchinson in memory of Oscar (1992)
James M. Hutchinson in memory of Randolf (1990)
James M. Hutchinson in memory of Leslie (1991)
Hannah Bryant in memory of Mikadoo (10-15-80)
Hannah Bryant in memory of Pasha (9-28-96)
Hannah Bryant in memory of Bandit (11-30-97)
Helen Holbrook in memory of Hogan (1987-1996)
Helen Holbrook in memory of Duffy (1986-1997)
Isabel G. Mansfield in memory of Tanya (11-22-96)

Annual Report '97

The very busy year of 1997 was our 99th year of service and we are now less than a year away from the 100th Birthday of the League. These are exciting times as we grow close to March 13, 1999, the actual date of our 100th Anniversary. We are planning many special events to celebrate this milestone and we will be telling you more about the activities as the time grows near. Never has it been more important to remember the sage advice and motto of our founder, Anna Harris Smith, when she said, "Kindness uplifts the world."

During 1997, we continued to monitor legislation and present testimony at hearings on legislation, which had an influence on animals and their welfare. Thom White and Alan Borgal of our Law Enforcement Department spent many, many hours in this endeavor.

An important aspect of our work is the education and training of our staff to insure that they are ready and well prepared to meet the challenges of our animal rescue work. We have developed an extensive training program for our staff and this past year we created the position of Training and Development Coordinator as an addition to our management staff. The position was filled by Mike Brammer of our Boston Shelter and he has been doing an outstanding job of training all newly hired shelter staff as well as developing a whole host of training programs to improve the skills of our regular staff. Some of this has been specialized training such as ice rescues of animals and high risk situations and advanced training in handling animals in dangerous circumstances. This has brought a much higher level of professionalism and expertise to my staff's performance in caring for animals.

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We continue to be grateful to our many members and friends who have been so kind as to donate many of the items that we have listed in our "Sit Up and Beg" column in this magazine. This has run the range from a video camera to an ice sled. These very practical gifts have been a tremendous aid in helping us to live up to our image that "Rescue" is our middle name.

One of the happy aspects of our shelter operations is the restoring of lost animals to their owners and the placement of unwanted animals in new homes. Last year we placed and returned over 6100 such pets. We are pleased to see that the overpopulation of dogs is not as great as in the past and this has meant that fewer unwanted puppies have been born. While this is heartwarming in some respects, we are ever aware that the cat overpopulation problem is still very much of a concern and not under control in most areas.

Our clinic is a constant scene of care and treatment for animals that are sick and injured and in need of professional medical care. Our staff saw over 12,400 active cases in our outpatient clinic.

The Law Enforcement Department handled over 1100 cruelty complaints, which involved 4,718 animals. These complaints concerned a wide range of neglect and abuse of various types of animals including dogs, cats, horses, farm animals and wildlife. In addition to these cruelty cases, our inspectors performed hundreds of inspections involving 219,415 animals.

Our rabies control work for the City of Boston was extremely busy with an ever-increasing number of animal bite cases being reported. The fact that rabies is an ever-present reality in Boston makes it essential that we take great care in dealing with these matters. It is alarming that during this past year we have been seeing one or two positive cases of rabies per month among the animals coming into our Boston shelter. The vast majority of these cases have been among wildlife, mainly skunks and raccoons. The number of such cases normally rises with the advent of warm weather, so this spring may be an especially dangerous time in our contacts with native wildlife and domestic animals with bite wounds of unknown origin. Keep in mind that it is especially important to keep all of your pets up to date with their rabies shots.

A record number of 1602 animal bite cases were reported last year and 197 animals required laboratory examination for rabies.

Our Animal Friends Summer Camp had a banner summer last year with an overflow enrollment. The all day program has made the camp a successful and exciting experience. We have an outstanding education staff and they are busy throughout the year presenting humane education programs in all types of schools and at League facilities throughout eastern Massachusetts.

One of the happy aspects of our shelter operations is the restoring of lost animals to their owners and the placement of unwanted animals in new homes.

The League's volunteer program is a growing and dynamic force in helping the League with extra hands and hearts to carry out our mission of helping animals with care and kindness.

All of this makes for the most exciting time in our history as we approach 1999 and our 100th Anniversary.

First Aid for Your Pet: Are You Prepared?

by Sonia Beals

While responding to a house fire in New Bedford a few years ago, League Law Enforcement Officer Chris Charbonneau came across a kitten suffering from smoke inhalation. By performing mouth-to-nose resuscitation, he was able to save its life. When asked how he felt about reviving the kitten, Chris responds with a resounding shout of "Excellent!"

League Law Enforcement Officers Dianne Begonis and Rigaud Lee practice rescue breathing on golden retriever, Berkeley at a recent Red Cross Pet First Aid Class.

Senior Training and Public Education Instructor, Alan Cunningham, once helped a newborn pig begin its life by performing mouth-to-snout breathing. "It was messy, but it worked!" says Alan.

Humane Educator Rebecca Hutchinson recalls having to give her pet rat, Carmelina, the animal version of the Heimlich maneuver when she noticed her friend was choking on a kernel of corn. "Her lips went blue and she was gasping for air, her eyes bulged, and I knew this was a life or death situation," Rebecca remembers. By applying small, gentle thrusts to the rat's upper abdomen sternal area, the kernel dislodged and Carmelina resumed to her energetic self.

These animals may have perished if not for the knowledge and quick-thinking actions of caring people who took the time to study pet first aid. Are you prepared to help your pet in an emergency?

In an effort to help pet owners respond to emergencies, the American Red Cross, in conjunction with The Humane Society of the United States, has published a **Pet First Aid** book for cats and dogs. The book, which is sold in stores and through Red Cross chapters, is a companion piece to a basic course offered by the agency. As a part of ongoing training, the League recently hosted the course for employees. Taught by Red Cross Health and Safety Service Instructor, Angela Mitchell, League employees enhanced their skills by practicing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR and Rescue Breathing). Ms. Mitchell also reviewed procedures for controlling bleeding, hyper/hypothermia and poison treatment, among others.

League Veterinarian, Dr. Cheryl Cullion, believes the course is invaluable to pet owners. "If people take the time to study the book, they will become better educated on how to calmly help their pets if they become injured or stressed." Dr. Cullion recalls her neighbors saving their kitten using CPR after it had bitten into a cord and suffered an electrical shock. While the **Pet First Aid Book** clearly points out that CPR has a low success rate, it can be the difference in giving the animal a chance to survive. According to Dr. Cullion, "Pet owners can learn how to relieve pain, stop bleeding, take care of minor injuries, and provide valuable information to the veterinarian upon arrival at a clinic or animal hospital."

The book, in conjunction with the class, offers a sense of comfort to pet owners who not only want to learn basic first aid, but also want to become more informed on preventive measures they can take to help their pets with daily living. The goal of the 3 1/2 hour course, according to Instructor Mitchell, "is to give pet owners some basic skills in the event of an emergency, and until the injured animal can be taken to a vet." If you are interested in purchasing the book or taking the course, please contact your local Red Cross chapter. Current cost for the course is $25. The **Pet First Aid** book is available for $10 per copy.

First Aid Kit

(Reprinted with permission from American Red Cross Pet First Aid)

Below is a list of items every pet owner should have on hand for their pet first aid kit. The kit itself can be stored in a waterproof pouch if kept on a boat and in a small toolbox or other kind of box in the house. A small version can even be kept in your car trunk. Medications and medical supplies should be kept safely out of the reach of children. Since some of the items in your test kit will carry expiration dates, check your kit periodically, discard outdated medications and supplies and make sure you have all the supplies you need. If your pet has any special conditions or needs, ask your veterinarian what additional items you may need for your first aid kit.

Your pet first aid kit should include the following:

- Latex gloves
- Gauze sponges (available at most pharmacies). A variety of sizes, both large and small, are best to keep on hand.
- Roll gauze, 2-inch width.
- Roll bandages, such as gauze wrap that stretches and clings. These are available at pharmacies, pet stores and through pet catalogs.
- Materials to make a splint. These can include pieces of wood, newspaper and sticks.
- Adhesive tape, hypo-allergenic.
- Non-adherent sterile pads. These pads make excellent dressings and can be purchased in most pharmacies.
- Small scissors.
- Grooming clippers (available in pet stores and pet catalogs) or a safety razor.
- Nylon leash (at least one).
- Towel.
- Muzzle. A cage muzzle is ideal, but a soft collapsible one may be more convenient to carry. Get one you already know fits your pet. If you do not want to purchase one, at least have plenty of roll gauze available to use as a make-shift muzzle.
- Compact thermal blanket. These may be purchased in some pharmacies; they are also frequently found in sporting goods stores and catalogs. If you cannot get a thermal blanket, have a regular blanket available.
- Pediatric rectal thermometer (may be digital).
- Water-based sterile lubricant (washes off easily).
- Three percent hydrogen peroxide (this will have an expiration date).
- Rubbing alcohol (isopropyl).
- Over-the-counter topical antibiotic ointment.
- Epsom salts.
- Baby dose syringe or eye dropper (non-glass). These are available at pharmacies or in the baby section of most grocery stores.
- Sterile eye lubricant.
- Sterile saline eye wash.
- Diphenhydramine, appropriate dosage for your pet's size, if approved by your veterinarian. This will have an expiration date.
- Glucose paste or corn syrup.
- Styptic powder or pencil. Pharmacies carry styptic pencils for use when people cut themselves shaving. Veterinary styptic products are sold at veterinary hospitals, pet supply stores and through catalogs.
- Expired credit card to scrape away stingers.
- A list of emergency telephone numbers including your pet's veterinarian, an after-hours emergency veterinary hospital and the National Animal Poison Control Center (1-800-548-2423 or 1-900-680-0000).
- Petroleum jelly.
- Penlight.
- Clean cloth.
- Needle-nose pliers.

Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

Choose Your Friends Carefully

Hi! My name is Roger Rabies and I am one of the baddest germs you'll ever meet. I am actually a virus and can make mammals (that is all you hairy, fuzzy things out there) as sick as a dog.

I make myself at home in the saliva (otherwise known as spit) and other bodily fluids of mammals.

I have "befriended" a few foxes, skunks, raccoons and woodchucks in my day and I'd like to be your buddy too. This is just as long as you don't mind me bullying you around a bit and making you a tad crazy (once I become your pal I infect your brain and nervous system)! My friendships tend not to last too long because most of my pals usually up and die on me quickly.

When I travel from one body to another, I am transported from the bodily fluid of one friend to the bodily fluid of my other friend through a bite or scratch on the skin.

Not everyone wants to hang around with me, so a potent rabies vaccine (or shot) has been devised to fight me off should I stop by. Dogs and cats must have this vaccine—it is the law and I may be a bad germ, but this virus does not break the law!

If you want to stay clear of me and my buddies let me give you a few suggestions:

- Make sure that you vaccinate your dogs and cats with that special potent rabies potion I was talking about! This not only will protect them but will hopefully protect you and your family too.
- Make sure to stay away from my pals like raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, foxes and other wild or strange mammals. Some think that it is easy to spot those mammals who are pals with Roger Rabies. All my pals don't share all of the tell-tale signs of rabies, such as foaming at the mouth.
- Make sure to report any bite or scratch that is an open wound or cut. You can report these incidences to a medical doctor or your local and state health department.

ends

Dear Gretel

Sometimes when I am clipping my dog Snoopy's nails, they bleed. Why does this occur and how can I prevent this from happening?

Dear Readers,

Most animals have a small blood vessel that grows in the middle of the hard nail. This blood vessel is called a quick. Cutting into the quick is what causes the bleeding to occur when clipping your pet's nails. Since the quick tends to bleed a lot if it is cut, I suggest having a styptic pencil or powder around to stop the bleeding. You can place some of the powder on gauze or a cloth and place it on the area that is bleeding for at least 5 minutes so that the blood can clot. If you don't have any styptic around, a bar of soap or cornstarch will do.

Just like our nails, animals nails grow too. Waiting too long to clip your pet's nails will make the quick grow to the tip of the nail. This means if you go to clip the nail, it most likely will bleed since you probably will be cutting into the quick. Trimming your pet's nails frequently will make the quick recede to the back of the nail over a period of time, allowing you to clip more of the nail off without cutting the quick.

You may notice that clipping clear nails are much easier than clipping black nails. You usually will be able to spot the quick in a clear nail - it is the pink area in the nail (you can clip up to the tip of that, but not into it). It is trickier with a black nail because you cannot see the quick in the nail. So you don't play a guessing game, it is safe to trim the very tip of the nail to start. Remember the more you trim the nail (i.e. once a week), the quicker the quick will recede.

You also want to use the correct equipment to cut your pet's nails. Scissors just won't do! Your local pet supply store should be able to tell you which nail clippers are right for your pet.

Hey Kids!

Do you have questions for Gretel? Write in and if your question gets published in Our *Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free Animal Rescue League of Boston t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions

Letters to Gretel, The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

friends of the quarter

Pictured above are some of the Girl Scouts from troop #4138

Seeing Green

What could be better than Girl Scout cookies? Toys, towels, and food donated to the Animal Rescue League of Boston by Girl Scout Troop #4138 of Quincy, MA! This is the second year this group has toured the animal shelter, adoption center and veterinary clinic here at the League's headquarters in Boston. They also learned about responsible pet ownership during their visit. Some of the girls are trying to earn their Girl Scout pet care badge—the Animal Rescue League of Boston wishes them luck!

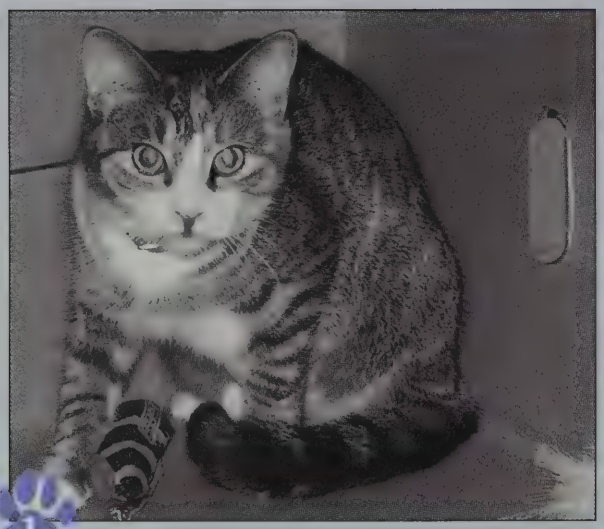
If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt! Send entries to:

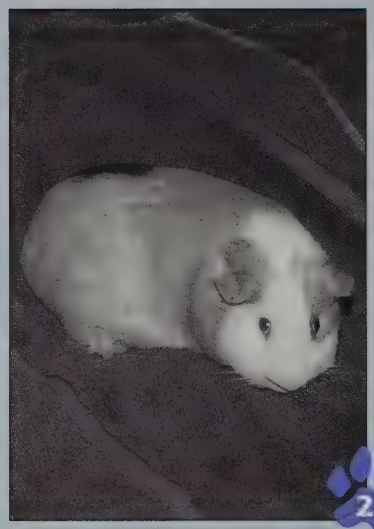
Friend of the Quarter

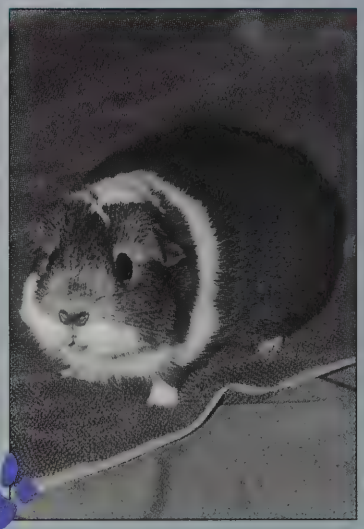
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Participants must be twelve years of age or younger.

Pets in







1.

The League received a card from "Charlotte, the "Scaredy Kat." She wrote to let us know she loves her new home with Joe and Jeanne Dansky of West Roxbury. "They give me lots of LOVE and play and snuggle with me," says "Charlotte."

2.

Meet "Porkchop" and "Applesauce". Can you figure out who is who? Jean-Marie Bussolari of Danvers treats her new guinea pigs "just like queens." They love alfalfa cubes and celery and find comfort nuzzled under Jean-Marie's chin.

3.

Devon Carrington of Winnetka, CA sends a message to "our friends back in Boston: we've been gone five years but are forever loyal." Devon writes that "Millie" and "Rosie" are big readers of *Our Fourfooted Friends.*

4.

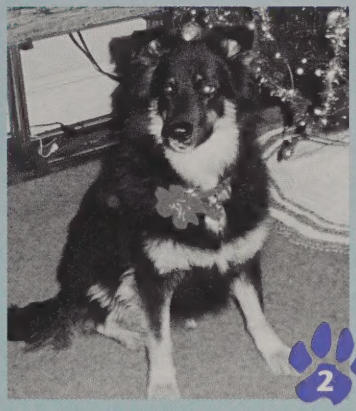
"Babe" (dog) and "Kissi Mirri" (cat) "just love their new home and us," says Kirsti Kettunen-Belle of Gloucester. Both pets were adopted from the Salem shelter in 1996. The other member of the family, "Freddie," an African gray parrot, tells "Babe" to "be a good girl" and "Kissi Mirri" to "come here Kiddie Kiddie."

5.

"Speckles D. Heimer," adopted from the Boston shelter by Jeanne Marois and Jeffrey Hannon of Boston, was a sickly kitten who with the help of the League's clinic staff and two loving parents is now the picture of health. "Speck" and his sister, "Melanie Fluff and Stuff," are "loved and valued tremendously" and "have the run of the house."

the Picture

Gone But Not Forgotten



1. *"Rockelle"*

"Rockelle" was an integral part of the Zwicker family (Richard, Cindy, Renee, Adam, Jared and Jake) of Saugus for 18 years. "Rockelle" gave us much happiness, joy and devotion over the years. "Rockelle" is sadly missed but we won't forget the many fond memories we have of her."

2. *"Lucky"*

Dorothy and Donald Wilson of Roslindale found "Lucky" in the snow when he was just six weeks old. "Lucky" lived a wonderful 14 1/2 years with the Wilsons and enjoyed many happy times, especially at birthdays and Christmas. "He is in his resting spot at Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals. We miss him terribly."

3. *"Alexander"*

Karen DeNapoli of Norwood and "Alexander" were together many terrific years. Karen writes, "Alexander" was my beloved companion and friend for twelve years, and his love will be in my heart for always."

4. *"Owen"*

" 'Owen' enjoying "his" sofa for an afternoon snooze is only one of the many ways we will remember him," writes Alison and Gunars Vinkels of Walpole, MA. "So full of personality. His walks to the pond, morning showers and his WOW meow will be dearly missed. With good wishes we send you on to a peaceful place...so long, good friend."

Pet Loss Group

The loss of a beloved pet can be a difficult experience. The League is now offering support services to the public. If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call Marcia Lowry Maloney, LMHC at 617-426-9170 ext. 430.

Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has developed the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call 617-426-9170.

Towels and Blankets

Used to line cages for comfort and warmth, as well as in ambulances and after bathing.

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)

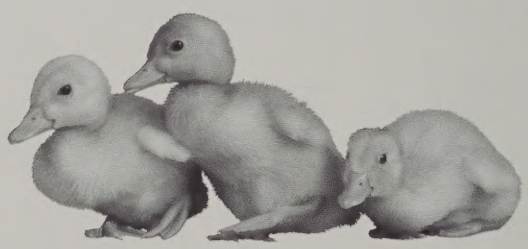
Used to help reduce the stress level of the animals while in the shelter.

Business Owners/Managers to Display Donation Boxes

For more information please call 617-426-9170, ext. 109.

Snyder Cage Dryer

Used to dry animals after baths: $1,857.



Sit Up & Beg Thanks

We would like to gratefully thank the following friends for their generous contributions:

Doris Cantwell, Arlington, MA, for donating a Polaroid camera

Cape Cod Computer Wholesalers, Orleans, MA, for creating and maintaining our Cape Cod web site.

Helen V. Connors, Canton, MA, for her donation to purchase a mini-size refrigerator

Doyle's Variety, Belmont, MA, for hosting a League donation box

Luanna Ellis-Devenis, Lexington, MA, for her donation to purchase a mini-refrigerator

Brandy McLean, Danvers, MA, for her donation of a refrigerator

Maria Quarato, East Boston, MA, for her donation of a refrigerator

Paula Szuflad, Quincy, MA, for a Polaroid camera

Nicki Tripodes, Boston, MA, for her donation to purchase a television/VCR

Henry T. Wiggin, Brookline, MA, for his donation to assist in purchasing a cage dryer

Thanks to the many thoughtful animal lovers who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets and towels. Your kindness provides comfort and warmth.

Show your support

and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail.

Blue Ribbon Pin
$5.00 ea.

Ceramic Coffee Mug
$3.00 ea.

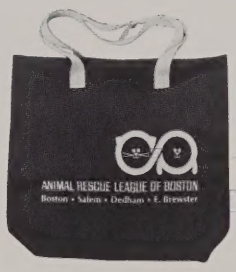
T-Shirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$10.00 ea.

Children's
(S, M, L)
$7.00 ea.

Sweatshirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.

Children's
(S, M, L)
$15.00 ea.

Sweatpants
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.



Tote Bag
$12.00 ea.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE — **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation** *(Required by 39 USC 3685)*

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f. Total Free Distribution *(Sum of 15d and 15e)*		1,782	2,025
g. Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c and 15f)*		23,499	20,834
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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Please send me:

Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total *(Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling for orders $10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)*			

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston**
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

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P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested